Vol. 2. Numb. 4.

The Athenian Mercury:

Saturday, *June* 6. 1691.

Queſt. 1. *Since in your* laſt Advertiſement, *you inſinuate that the Coffee-houſes muſt take in* 12 Numbers *by the Lump, to compleat their* firſt Volume,—— Query—— *Of what Uſe or Intereſt will it be to them more than the ſingle ones of the* ſecond Volume?

Anſw. Which of the *Coffee-houſes* this Queſtion comes from, from that populous one of *Mans*, to the *laſt* that ſet up *this Morning*, I know not; nor am I, or any of our Societiety, ſo fit to anſwer this, as the Intereſted Bookſeller ——— *Reſolved Nemine Contradicente*, That he be taken into the Number to day, though we expel him again to Morrow—— Thus then by his Advice——

1. The longer the Parcel is, the longer the Reckoning.

2. Thoſe *Coffee-houſes* where Gentlemen enquire for 'em, or the *whole Set*, may be furniſhed either from their Correſpondent *Hawkers*, or from Mr. *Baldwin* the Publiſher, probably to their Advantage; for to our Knowledge (*the Bookſeller is one of us*) that one of thoſe Coffee-houſes we frequent will make a conſiderable Advantage by a great many *Sets beſpoke*, as well as by the Confluence of their Cuſtomers.

3. That all thoſe Gentlemen, which to our Knowledge are not a few, when they come into a *Coffee-houſe*, and not finding the *Mercury* there, go out again to ſeek it elſewhere, will by taking in this *Supplement of the firſt Volume* be accommodated without *further ſearch*, and ſpend their Moneys where they find it.

4. It will ſend ſeveral *New Cuſtomers* to Coffee-houſes, to ſearch among ſuch a Multitude of Queſtions, whether there may be a Solution for any *Doubt*, *Trouble*, or *Curioſity* that they labour under, (or to any *Queſtions* they have already ſent in) as there is no Perſon that is ſatisfied in all things.

5. That thoſe who ſend in Queſtions will come *two or three times* to look for an Anſwer, we having *many*, and therefore without great partiality cannot limit a Day.

6. That the *Generous Lovers* (who ſpend liberally) will throng the Coffee-houſes every *firſt Tueſday* in the Month to read the *Female Queſtions*.

7. That the *Youth will learn to be ſober*, and drink Coffee, on purpoſe to make uſe of theſe Opportunities, which will make 'em Diſputants, and fit Company for their Seniors.

Well, Mr. *Bookſeller*, We think you've ſaid enough —— *The Coffee-houſes* muſt ſee their Intereſt by this time, and if ſo, 'tis needleſs to uſe Arguments with thoſe Perſons to Undertake any thing, that have reſolv'd upon it already—— Away to your *Counter* again, there's a *Coffee-man* waits for a dozen Sets of your *Athenian Mercury*.

Queſt. 2. *Being ſome Years ſince in* France, *I was ſhewn this* Experiment *by an Eminent Phyſician*, viz. *A Condemn'd Priſoner that was begg'd had an* Orifice *made in his Arm, through which he bled till he was juſt ready to expire, at which time a* tame Animal bled by a Pipe into his Jugular-Vein, *which took this Effect, he recovered his Life, and lived in a more full ſtrength of Body than before; this trial was made on him, when in Years, and yet he returned to the Vigour of his Youth*—— Query—— *Whether this might be done with ſafety, and whether it might not be beneficial to the Publick?*

Anſw. The Story of *Medea's reſtoring her Aged Father in Law*, notwithſtanding the Poet ſeems to be particular in quite contrary Ingredients, might (if true) have its riſe from ſuch an *Experiment*; ſeveral certain Inſtances of this Nature are upon Record, if they had been as common in *Plato's* days, it wou'd have ſpoil'd the *Doctrine of Tranſmigration of Souls*, to ſee a Man continue humane, and *act rationally in an Animals Blood*. The Story of the Phyſician is very pleaſant, who pretended an Experiment of this Nature with a *Tranſfuſion of Calves Blood*, till the Party cry'd *Bab. England* and *France* have ſeverally claim'd the Honour of this Invention, but the Controverſie might have lain ſtill; for there is a *Book publiſhed at Rome* by an *Italian*, wherein is mention'd that *Libavius* had exactly deſcribed this *Experiment of Tranſfuſion* long before either *England* or *France* heard of it. There are ſome Inſtances of this Nature mention'd in the Philoſophical Tranſactions of the *Royal Society*—— But after all, how this may be done with ſafety, or how it might be a Benefit to the Publick, I ſee not, ſince thoſe many Experiments of Priſoners, Mad-men and Animals, have been with ſuch different Succeſſes.

Queſt. 3. *I once met with a Man that had been at the Top of* Tenariff, *(whoſe Head is above the Clouds) he ſtaid there ſome days, and never felt nor perceiv'd a Breath of Wind, when at the ſame time there were continual Gales below; the Clouds he could always ſee under him, when ſometimes the People below could not ſee the leaſt Cloud or Wrinkle in the Face of Heaven—— What is the Reaſon of the Difference in the Optick Vertue of the Eye in this Caſe?*

Anſw. The Viſual Power of the Optick Nerve is *dazled through abundance of Light*; as for Inſtance, in the Heat of Summer, and in a clear Day there is not a Cloud to be ſeen to interpoſe betwixt us and the *Surface of the Sky*, when upon the ſame Day towards *Sun-*

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ſetting there are multitudes of Clouds to be ſeen; from this Reaſon it is, that the Perſon upon *Tenariff* might diſcern the Clouds, his Eye terminating upon a dark Body, the Earth, or at leaſt looking *Obliquely* towards the Hemiſphere, where the *Medium of Viſuality* is always moſt proper, when thoſe below the Mountain had no Darkneſs to *temper the redundancy of Light, but loſt it in the Tranſparency of the Sky.* This *Tenariff* is now ſuppoſed to be the higheſt Place in the World, mounting its Perpendicular above ſeven *Engliſh* Miles.

Queſt. 4. *What's the Reaſon that two Perſons are never alike in Face and other Proportions?*

Anſw. Chiefly from two Reaſons: The firſt, an *Inequality of Complexions* or Diſpoſitions of Parents: The ſecond, *A diſſimilitude of informing Organs.* We ſhall paſs over the Power of Imagination, ſince ſuch Inſtances are extraordinary; here's one Mother Flegmatick, another Cholerick, *&c.* one is leſs, and another is bigger; one eats this Dyet, another that, when 'tis well known that the Nouriſhments of Meats are according to their quality: Some hot, ſome cold, ſome indifferent, ſome a ſecond, third or fourth Degree of Heat or Cold; the different Poſtures of ſleeping, and millions of other *unthought* Accidents muſt needs have their Effects in *Diſparity of Productions*; but was a Woman and her Husband to be always of an *equal Conſtitution*, both as to their Body and Paſſions, at the *Act of Generation*, and ſhou'd the Mother after Conception always eat the ſame Dyet, uſe the ſame Motion of Body, the ſame time for ſleep, and ſo in every thing elſe, her Children wou'd be very like, as is evident in the *Caſe of Twins*, which wou'd alſo be yet liker, if the Mothers Poſture in ſleeping did not hinder; for in the time of ſleep, the *Senſitive and Animal* Parts are more powerful in their Effects than at other times, (which by the by, the Reaſon why Nature gives to Children ſuch a Neceſſity of Sleeping,) — This Similitude of Birth may by unequal Climates, Dyet, Labour, *&c.* alter two Twins, as we ſee Men alter in two or three Years from what they were. This Similitude of Lineaments and Perſonage is very often accompanied with *Mutual Kindneſs, Pain, Sleep,* &c. tho' at a diſtance, as is remarkable in two Twins, Sons of *Tho. Tremain* in *Devonſhire*, Eſq; (*See* Fuller's *Worthies*, p. 266.) who ſometimes by a private Confederacy wou'd exchange Habits for Mirth, and act ſuch Miſtakes as were never thought of in the *Amphitruo* of *Plautus.*

Queſt. 5. *Whether we may ſafely conclude or not, that a Child quick'ned in the Womb, and yet dying before its Birth, is capable of the Rewards or Puniſhments of a Future State?*

Anſw. Yes, 'Tis not the continuance of a Soul's Operation in its Organs, but the *reality of its Operation there*, which determines the Queſtion; and that the Soul is ſuppos'd to be really there, is evident from the Effects, *viz. Life* and *Motion.*

Queſt. 6. *What Members might Humane Nature be depriv'd of, as not abſolutely neceſſary, and yet be ſuppoſed to exiſt?*

Anſw. The Doctors ſay, without the Spleen, diſmember'd of Arms and Legs, diſteſticulated, without Eyes, Noſe, Teeth, Lips, Chin, Ears, Tongue, without part of his Scull, Shoulders, Buttocks, *&c.* which have been by many Inſtances found not abſolutely neceſſary for exiſtence: and no doubt but *Nature* would deſire a protraction of its exiſtence under worſe inconveniencies: A remarkable Inſtance we have in a *Turkiſh Puniſhment*, viz. The Criminal has a ſtrong *Bow-ſtring* put about his middle, with ſome Perſons at each end to pull it, the ſtanders by prick the Sides of the Party with *Pins, Needles*, or ſuch like ſharp Inſtruments, whereby (and the others pulling) he is contracted into a very ſmall Compaſs; and when the Executioners think it at the ſmalleſt, ſome one amongſt them takes a keen Scimiter, and with one blow ſeparates the Body in two; and immediately taking the upper part, places it upon a broad Iron, heated for that purpoſe, which *ſears* the Wound, and *ſtanches* the Blood, in which poſture the Party having his Inteſtines whole will live a very conſiderable time: And it has been obſerved, that when the Mercy ſtroke (as the *Turks* call it) is giving to the Wretch, he will move his Head, and (as much as may be) his Body from it, *chuſing rather that torment than Death*, altho' he muſt be ſatisfied of the neceſſity of his ſpeedy Death.

Advertiſements.

NExt Monday, *being the* 8th. *of this Inſtant* June, *will be Finiſh'd all the* 12 *Numbers that compleat our* Firſt Volume, *which ſhall then be Publiſh'd all together, with a* Preface and Index *to it, which ſaid* Preface, Index, *and* 12 Numbers, *ſhall be but Twelve Pence price, that ſo all thoſe Gentlemen that took in the ſingle Sheets from time to time, may have their* Volume entire *for* 2 *s.* 6*d. And alſo that thoſe* Coffee-houſes *that did the like may then have the whole* Firſt Volume *ſtitch'd up by them, for the conſtant Entertainment of their Cuſtomers, ſingle Sheets being apt to be loſt, except* paſted in the Book.

WE *hope at the end of our Firſt Volume we have given general Satisfaction to all our Reaſonable* Queriſts; *but if for* want of room, through over-ſight, or otherwiſe *we have omitted the Reſolution of any Queſtion* worth our anſwering, *upon freſh notice given by the Inquirers, they may expect an anſwer to their full ſatisfaction either in our* weekly Papers, *or at the Concluſion of our* Second Volume, *which ſhall be publiſh'd* (that we may oblige all our Queriſts) *as ſoon as ever we have received Queſtions enough to fill it up; but forbear ſending any more Queſtions till we give publick Notice we have diſpatch'd all thoſe already on our hands.*

* * * *We deſign to add a general* Title, Preface *and* Index *to every Volume, (as we have to this firſt) and at the end of every twelve Months to draw an* Alphabetical Table *for the whole Year, that ſo thoſe Gentlemen that keep by them the ſeveral Volumes, or ſingle Papers that are publiſh'd from time to time, may then bind them up all together, and by the help of the ſaid* Alphabetical Table *preſently find any* Subject or Queſtion *they have a mind to conſult.*

☞ *The Queſtion ſent us this Week,* viz. Whether there is any Hopes of Salvation for them that Murther themſelves? *is anſwered (and we hope to the Queriſts full ſatisfaction) at the End of our* firſt Volume.

LONDON: Printed for *P. Smart*, 1691.